

REMARKS

With this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Support for this amendment can be found at, for example, original claim 2.

Claim 6 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 7. Support for this amendment can be found at, for example, original claim 7.

The above amendments also find support at, for example, page 2, line 25 through page 3, line 9, page 7, line 25 through page 8, line 1, page 12, page 8, lines 23-25, line 26 through page 13, line 2, and page 19, line 21-27 of the originally filed specification.

Claims 4, 5, and 8 are amended to improve their form.

Claims 2 and 7 are canceled.

Therefore, claims 1, 3-6, and 8-10 are all the claims pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over WO 00/59063, where “Kaneda” (U.S. Patent No. 6,743,546) is used for translation, in view of “Baumann” (U.S. Patent No. 5,270,133).

Claims 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kaneda in view of Baumann as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of “Kamata” (U.S. Patent No. 4,732,825).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present amendment to claims 1 and 6 overcome these § 103 obviousness rejections.

For example, present claim 1 recites “a member in the form of a bag for tightly covering

at least a corner of said collector . . . wherein said member in the form of a bag is formed with an insertion hole for allowing said tab to be inserted thereinto.”

Further, present claim 6 recites “the collector covering member is said member in the form of a bag for tightly covering at least a corner of said collector, and is formed with an opening portion for allowing a tab that is connected to said collector and is extended from said enclosing film, to be inserted thereinto.”

In contrast, Kaneda does not disclose a member in the form of a bag covering collector, and Baumann does not disclose so much as a collector.

The above difference is not insignificant. An embodiment of present claim 1 has the advantageous effects described in connection with the disclosure in paragraphs [0012], [0019], [0037], [0064], [0065] and Fig. 8 of the specification as published. Especially, in paragraph [0019], there is following description:

“in the film covered electric device according to present invention, the corner of the collector is covered with the member in the form of a bag, thereby preventing damage in the enclosed film by the corner. Also, even if the corner causes damage to the enclosing film, the corner is tightly covered with the member in the form of a bag, thus, the current path between the corner and the damaged portion becomes longer, and a state can be kept, in which it is hard for where an electric short circuit to occur. Specifically, when no member in the form of a bag is arranged, the corner and the damaged portion form the shortest current path which creates to be in a state in which an electric short circuit is easy to occur, however, the corner is covered with the member in the form of a bag, whereby the current path between the corner and the damaged portion cannot be formed without passing through the opening portion in the member in the form of a bag. Therefore, there is no case in which the shortest current path will be formed. Also, the member in the form of a bag tightly covers the collector, thereby reducing the inflow of the electrolytic solution between the member in the form of a bag and the collector. Therefore, electric resistance between the corner and the damaged portion is enhanced. Based on this arrangement, the film covered electric device according to the present invention can improve the electrical insulation property between the collector and the enclosed film.”

Claims 2 and 7 are canceled, which renders this aspect of the rejections moot.

Claims 3-5 and 8-10 depend from either claim 1 or 6, directly or indirectly.

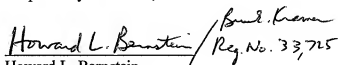
Therefore, the presently claimed invention is non-obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art on the basis of Kaneda and Baumann. Further, Kamata does not make up for these deficiencies.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 obviousness rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Howard L. Bernstein
Registration No. 25,665

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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